



County of San Diego  
Planning & Development Services  
**BUILDING DIVISION**

ACCESSIBILITY CORRECTION LIST

Public Accommodations  
& Commercial Buildings

**7B**

**Stairways**

PLAN CHECK #:

OWNER ON APPLICATION:

**STAIRWAYS**

1. Provide dimensions and coordinated detailing for each stairway.  
*CBC 1133B.4*
2. Detail stair treads and risers complying with the following:
  - ☐ Minimum 11-inch tread width
  - ☐ Minimum 4-inch and maximum 7-inch riser height
  - ☐ Uniform tread width and riser height on each stairway flight
  - ☐ Risers vertical or sloped from underside of leading edge of tread above at maximum 30-degree angle from vertical
  - ☐ Open risers prohibited

**Exception:** On exterior stairways, maximum ½-inch opening allowed between base of riser and tread  
**Exception:** On exterior stairways, risers constructed of grating allowed with maximum ½-inch openings  
*CBC 1133B.4.5*
3. Detail tread nosings complying with the following per CBC Figure 11B-35(b):
  - ☐ Smooth, rounded, or beveled
  - ☐ Maximum ½-inch radius of curvature or beveling
  - ☐ Not projecting more than 1¼ inches past face of riser below
  - ☐ Uniform nosings on each stairway flight*CBC 1133B.4.5*
4. Detail contrasting stair striping complying with the following per CBC Figure 11B-35(a):
  - ☐ At upper approach and lowest tread of interior stairs
  - ☐ At upper approach and all treads of exterior stairs
  - ☐ Extending full width of approaches and treads
  - ☐ Minimum 2-inches and maximum 4-inches wide
  - ☐ Placed parallel to and within 1 inch of nosing edges of approaches and treads*CBC 1133B.4.4*
5. Specify slip-resistant tread surface and striping material.  
*CBC 1133B.4.5.1*
6. Specify means of preventing accumulation of water on exterior stairway flight, approaches, and landings.  
*CBC 1133B.4.5.1*
7. At stairway flights or landings with an adjacent vertical drop exceeding 30 inches, detail continuous guard minimum 42-inches high with openings not allowing passage of 4-inch-diameter sphere.  
**Exception:** Openings not allowing passage of 4 3/8-inch-diameter sphere allowed in portions of guard 36 inches to 42 inches high  
**Exception:** Triangular openings not allowing passage of 6-inch-diameter sphere allowed between riser, tread, and bottom rail  
*CBC 1013.2 and CBC 1013.3*
8. Where pedestrian ways adjoin areas beneath stairs with less than 80-inch vertical clearance, detail cane-detectable barrier maximum 27 inches above walking surface per CBC Figure 11B-7C.  
*CBC 1133B.8.6.2*

**HANDRAILS AND EXTENSIONS**

9. Provide handrail at each side of each stairway flight.  
*CBC 1133B.4.1.1*
10. Provide intermediate handrails as needed such that entire stairway width required for egress capacity within 30 inches of a handrail.  
*CBC 1012.9*
11. Detail handrails complying with the following:
  - ☐ Top of gripping surface minimum 34 inches and maximum 38 inches above tread nosings
  - ☐ Continuous full length of each stairway flight and without interruption by newel posts or other obstructions
  - ☐ At least one handrail for each stairway in direction of stairway run and perpendicular to tread nosings
  - ☐ Not reducing required egress width of stairs  
*CBC 1133B.4.1 and CBC 1133.4.2*
12. Detail extensions for each handrail complying with the following:
  - ☐ Horizontal extension at top of stairway minimum 12 inches beyond top nosing per CBC Figure 11B-35(a)
  - ☐ Stair-slope extension at bottom of stairway for width of one tread beyond bottom riser plus horizontal extension minimum 12 inches per CBC Figure 11B-35(a)  
**Exception:** In existing buildings, full extensions shall not be required where such extensions would create a hazard  
**Exception:** Inner handrails at dogleg or switchback stairways shall be continuous per CBC Figure 11B-37 and shall not extend into landings per CBC Figure 11B-37
  - ☐ Extending in same direction as stair flight without bends around walls or obstructions
  - ☐ Not protruding into required width of adjacent route of travel  
*CBC 1012.6, CBC 1133B.4.2.2, and CBC 1133B.8.6.1*
13. Where handrail extensions protrude more than 4 inches into an adjacent route of travel, detail cane-detectable rail at maximum 27 inches above landing surface.  
*CBC 1133B.8.6.1*
14. Handrails shall return smoothly to floor, wall, or post.  
*CBC 1133B.4.2.3*
15. Detail handrail gripping surfaces complying with the following:
  - ☐ Minimum 1¼ inches and maximum 1½ inches in cross-sectional nominal dimension or shape providing equivalent gripping surface per CBC Figure 11B-36
  - ☐ Smooth with no sharp corners
  - ☐ No handrail rotation within fittings  
*CBC 1133B.4.2*
16. For handrails projecting from walls, detail 1½-inch (absolute) space between wall and handrail per CBC Figure 11B-36.  
*CBC 1133B.4.2.5*

**THIS DOCUMENT IS FOR PLAN REVIEW ONLY.  
CORRECTION LIST ITEMS MAY NOT BE REPRODUCED OR COPIED ON PLANS.  
PROVIDE COMPLETE DETAILS, DIMENSIONS, AND NOTES TO SATISFY CORRECTION ITEMS.**

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**HTTP://WWW.SDCPDS.ORG**

17. For handrails located in recesses, detail recess complying with the following per CBC Figure 11B-36(b):
- ☐ Maximum 3-inches deep
  - ☐ Extending minimum 18 inches above top of handrail
- CBC 1133B.4.2.5*
18. Specify surface material of any walls or other objects adjacent to handrails to comply with the following:
- ☐ Free of sharp or abrasive elements
  - ☐ Minimum 1/8-inch radius of any edges
- CBC 1133B.4.2.6*

## AREAS OF REFUGE

19. Identify on plans an area of refuge at each exit stairway and exit access stairway provided as an accessible means of egress per CBC 1007.
- Exception:** Exit stairways in buildings and facilities equipped with automatic sprinkler system
- Exception:** Open exit access stairways in buildings equipped with automatic sprinkler system
- Exception:** Exit stairways serving open parking garages
- Exception:** Stairways in smoke-protected seating areas
- Exception:** Stairways accessed from horizontal exits
- Exception:** Areas of refuge not required in R-2 occupancies
- CBC 1007.3*
20. Locate and dimension each area of refuge to comply with the following:
- ☐ Location on accessible route from space served
  - ☐ Maximum travel distance from space served per CBC 1016
  - ☐ Served by stairway in exit enclosure or elevator
- Exception:** Stairway need not be enclosed if allowed per CBC 1016.1 and CBC 1022.1
- ☐ Accommodates one wheelchair space for every 200 occupants served, but not fewer than two wheelchair spaces
  - ☐ Each wheelchair space minimum 30-inches by 48-inches with no door encroachment
  - ☐ Access to any wheelchair space not obstructed by more than one adjoining wheelchair space
  - ☐ Wheelchair spaces do not reduce required egress width
- CBC 1007.6 and CBC 1009.5*
21. Dimension minimum 48-inch clear width between handrails at exit stairways serving as accessible means of egress per CBC 1007.
- Exception:** Buildings equipped with automatic sprinkler system
- Exception:** Stairways accessed from horizontal exit
- CBC 1007.3*
22. Detail smoke barrier per CBC 710 or horizontal exit per CBC 1025 between each area of refuge and remainder of story.
- Exception:** Areas of refuge within vertical exit enclosures
- CBC 1007.6.2*
23. Specify two-way communication system complying with the following between each area of refuge and central control point:
- ☐ If central control point not constantly attended, controlled-access public telephone provided within area of refuge
  - ☐ Communication system with both audible and visible signals
  - ☐ Accessible button provided within area of refuge activating lights in both area of refuge and control point indicating rescue has been requested
  - ☐ Button provided at control point activating lights in both area of refuge and control point indicating request has been received
- CBC 1007.6.3*
24. Specify instructions displayed per item 32 within each area of refuge including the following for use under emergency conditions:
- ☐ Directions to locate other means of egress
  - ☐ Advising persons able to use stairway to do so as soon as possible, unless they are assisting others
  - ☐ Information on planned availability of assistance in use of stairs and how to summon such assistance
  - ☐ Directions for use of two-way communications system
- CBC 1007.6.4*

25. Provide sign per the following at door accessing area of refuge:
- ☐ Visual characters per item 33 stating: "AREA OF REFUGE"
  - ☐ International Symbol of Accessibility per CBC Figure 11B-6(b)
  - ☐ Illuminated where exit sign illumination required
  - ☐ Raised characters per item 34
  - ☐ Corresponding Braille per item 35
- CBC 1007.6.5*

## AREAS FOR ASSISTED RESCUE

26. Identify on plans an exterior area for assisted rescue at each exterior exit stairway serving as accessible means of egress per CBC 1007 and not served by area of refuge.
- CBC 1007.8*
27. Each exterior area for assisted rescue shall comply with the following:
- ☐ Minimum 50-percent open to outside air
  - ☐ Accommodates one wheelchair space for every 200 occupants served, but not fewer than two wheelchair spaces
  - ☐ Each wheelchair space minimum 30-inches by 48-inches with no door encroachment
  - ☐ Access to any wheelchair space not obstructed by more than one adjoining wheelchair space
  - ☐ Wheelchair spaces do not reduce required egress width
- CBC 1007.8 and CBC 1009.5*
28. Dimension minimum 48-inch clear width between handrails for exterior exit stairways serving exterior areas for assisted rescue.
- CBC 1007.8.2*
29. Detail separation assemblies between each exterior area for assisted rescue and building served per the following:
- ☐ Minimum 1-hour-rated building exterior walls within 10 feet horizontally
  - ☐ Minimum 1-hour-rated building exterior walls within 10 feet vertically of floor level of area for assisted rescue or roof line, whichever is lower
  - ☐ Minimum ¾-hour-rated openings within portions of building exterior walls requiring 1-hour rating
- CBC 1007.8*
30. Provide sign per item 25 at door accessing exterior area for assisted rescue and reading "EXTERIOR AREA FOR ASSISTED RESCUE."
- CBC 1007.8.3*

## SIGNAGE

31. Identify on plans location of each stair-related sign and coordinate with signage schedule and/or details indicating the following:
- ☐ Sign dimensions
  - ☐ Character and symbol dimensions
  - ☐ Character, symbol, and background colors
  - ☐ Braille dimensions
  - ☐ Sign mounting location
- CBC 1117B.5*
32. Provide floor-designation signs complying with the following in each enclosed stairway:
- ☐ Located at landing at each floor level
  - ☐ Centerline mounted 60 inches (absolute) above floor
  - ☐ Placed adjacent to door on latch side
  - ☐ Positioned so person may approach within 3 inches of sign without encountering protruding objects or door swing
  - ☐ Visual characters designating floor level per item 33
  - ☐ Raised characters/ symbols designating floor level per item 34
  - ☐ Corresponding Braille per item 35 provided beneath raised characters and symbols
- CBC 1022.8, CBC 1117B.5, and CBC 1133B.4.3*

- CBC 1117B.5.2, CBC 1117B.5.3 and CBC 1117B.5.4*

## VISUAL CHARACTER HEIGHT

<b>HEIGHT TO FINISH FLOOR OR GROUND FROM BASELINE OF CHARACTER</b>	<b>HORIZONTAL VIEWING DISTANCE</b>	<b>MINIMUM CHARACTER HEIGHT</b>
<b>40 inches (1015 mm) to less than or equal to 70 inches (1780 mm)</b>	<b>Less than 72 inches (1830 mm)</b>	<b><math>\frac{5}{8}</math> inch (16 mm)</b>
	<b>72 inches (1830 mm) and greater</b>	<b><math>\frac{5}{8}</math> inch (16 mm), plus <math>\frac{1}{8}</math> inch (3.2 mm) per foot (305 mm) of viewing distance above 72 inches (1830 mm)</b>
<b>Greater than 70 inches (1780 mm) to less than or equal to 120 inches (3050 mm)</b>	<b>Less than 180 inches (4570 mm)</b>	<b>2 inches (51 mm)</b>
	<b>180 inches (4570 mm) and greater</b>	<b>2 inches (51 mm), plus <math>\frac{1}{8}</math> inch (3.2 mm) per foot (305 mm) of viewing distance above 180 inches (4570 mm)</b>
<b>Greater than 120 inches (3050 mm)</b>	<b>Less than 21 feet (6400 mm)</b>	<b>3 inches (75 mm)</b>
	<b>21 feet (6400 mm) and greater</b>	<b>3 inches (75 mm), plus <math>\frac{1}{8}</math> inch (3.2 mm) per foot (305 mm) of viewing distance above 21 feet (6400 mm)</b>

- 34. Raised characters on signage shall comply with the following:**
- ☐ Characters minimum 5/8-inch and maximum 2-inches high
  - ☐ Characters raised minimum 1/32 inch
  - ☐ Characters sans serif and uppercase
  - ☐ Characters in horizontal format
  - ☐ Pictorial symbols minimum 6-inches high
  - ☐ Text description directly below pictorial symbols
  - ☐ Raised five-pointed star provided to left of floor-designation at exit discharge level, with outside diameter of star same height as raised characters

*CBC 1020.1.6.2, CBC 1117B.5.5, and CBC 1133B.4.3*

35. Braille on signage shall comply with the following:
- ☐ Dots 1/10 inch on center in each cell
  - ☐ 2/10-inch spaces between cells, measured from second column of dots in first cell to first column of dots in second cell
  - ☐ Dots raised minimum 1/40 inch above background
  - ☐ Dots domed or rounded
  - ☐ Braille flush left or centered and placed minimum 3/8 inch and maximum 1/2 inch below raised characters or symbols
  - ☐ Braille in horizontal format
  - ☐ When raised characters are multilined text, all Braille placed together below all raised text lines

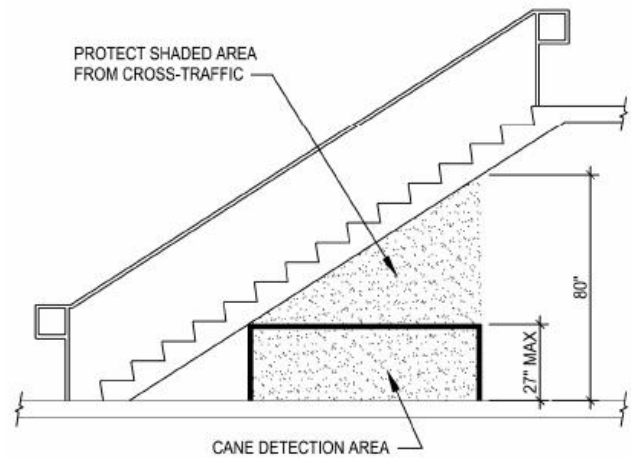
*CBC 1117B.5.6*

## ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

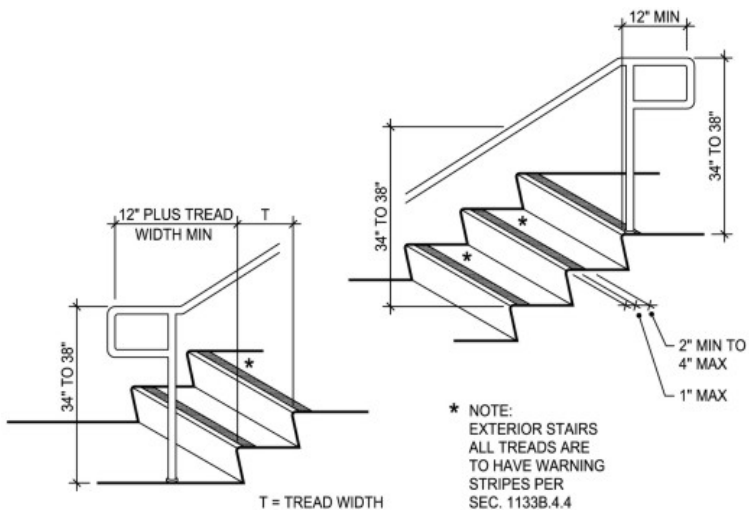
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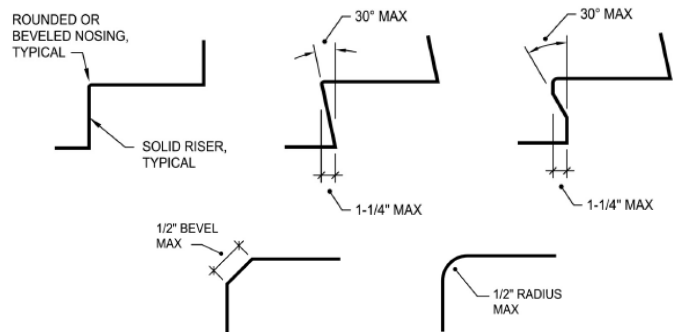
**CBC FIGURE 11B-6(b) –  
INTERNATIONAL SYMBOL OF ACCESSIBILITY  
(WHITE FIGURE ON BLUE BACKGROUND EQUAL TO  
COLOR NO. 15090 IN FEDERAL STANDARD 595B)**



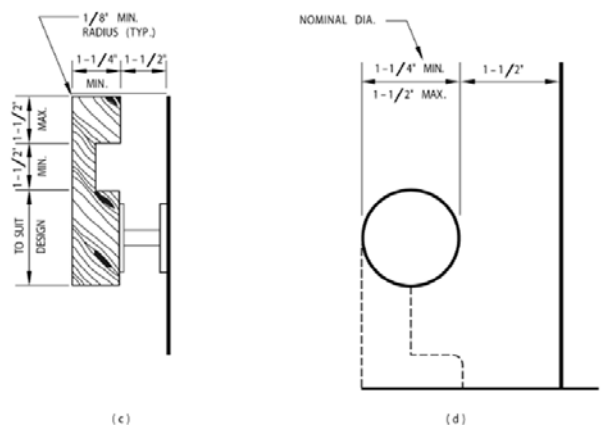
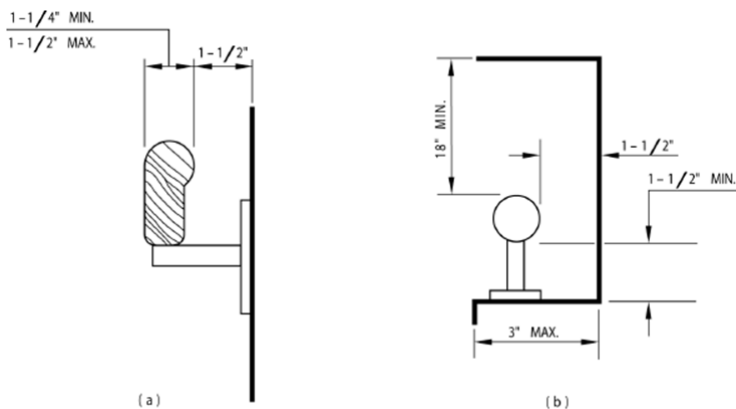
**CBC FIGURE 11B-7C – CANE-DETECTABLE RAIL**



**CBC FIGURE 11B-35(a) –  
STAIR STRIPING AND  
HANDRAIL EXTENSIONS**

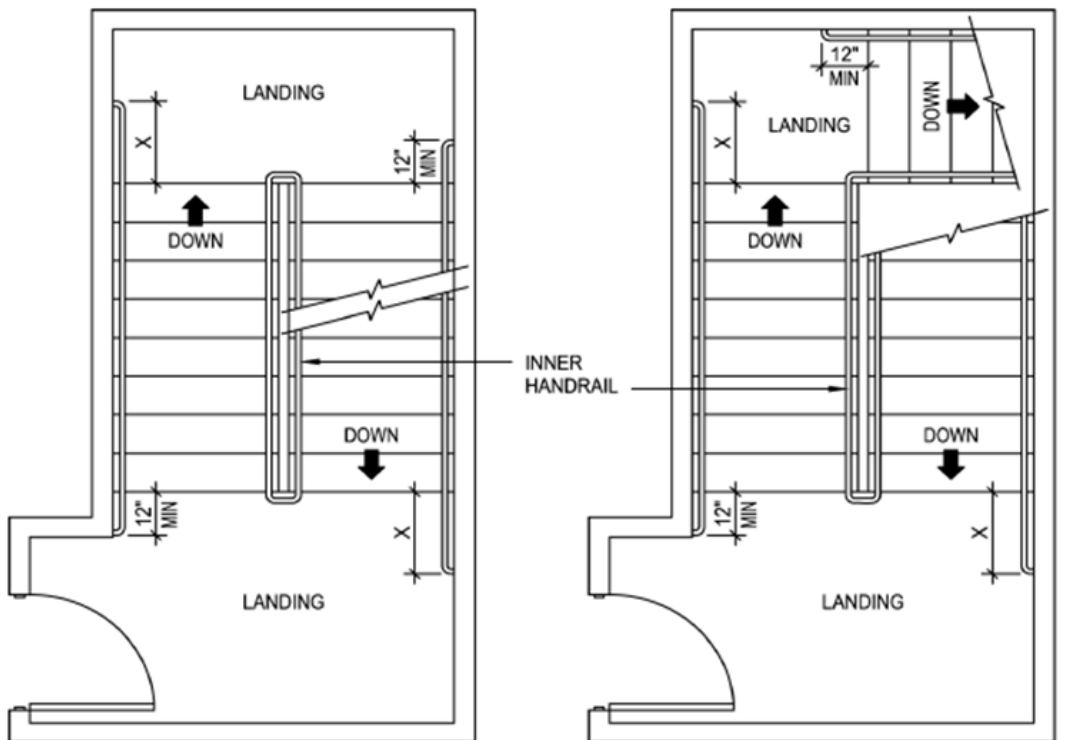


**CBC FIGURE 11B-35(b) –  
STAIR RISER AND  
NOSING CONFIGURATIONS**



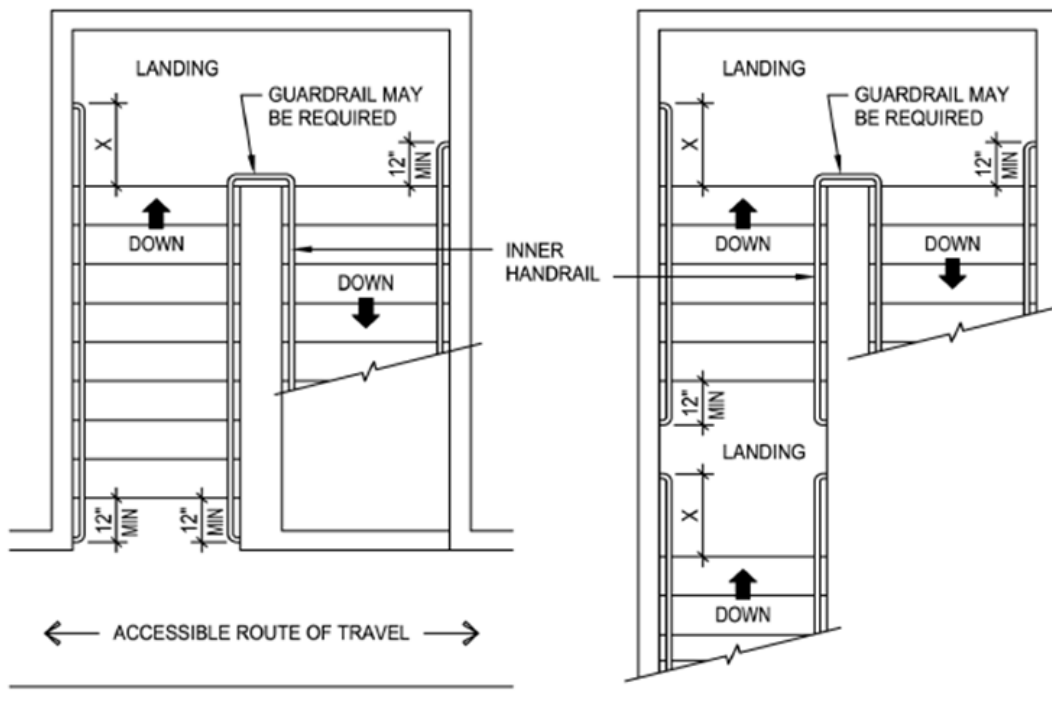
**CBC FIGURE 11B-36 – HANDRAIL GRIP, CLEARANCE, AND RECESS**

THESE FIGURES ARE FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY.  
THEY ARE NOT INTENDED FOR REPRODUCTION AS PLAN DETAILS.  
IF CONFLICTS EXIST BETWEEN THESE FIGURES AND THE TEXT  
OF THE *CALIFORNIA BUILDING CODE*, THE CODE TEXT SHALL GOVERN.



NOTE: INNER HANDRAIL AT LANDINGS OF STAIRS THAT DOUBLE BACK OR IMMEDIATELY TURN SHALL BE CONTINUOUS AND SHALL NOT EXTEND INTO LANDING OR ACCESSIBLE ROUTE OF TRAVEL

X = EXTENSION OF HANDRAIL SHALL BE EQUAL TO THE TREAD WIDTH PLUS 12 INCHES MINIMUM



CBC FIGURE 11B-37 – HANDRAILS AND EXTENSIONS

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